

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Nov. 17, 2004

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY RECEIVES MORE DOSES OF ADULT FLU VACCINE State Ships 24,000 Doses for High Risk Individuals to Local Health Department

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency received 24,000 additional doses of adult flu vaccine from the State today.

The 24,000 doses will be distributed to public health clinics, community clinics, and skilled nursing facilities. The doses are part of a shipment of 315,000 that California Department of Health Services is sending to counties throughout the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has another 844,000 doses available nationally that will be sent to states for purchase by local providers through local public health departments. In San Diego County, Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) will be the broker for these purchases.

"These doses are intended only for adults who are at risk for complications from the flu," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., Deputy Public Health Officer. "We continue to follow the CDC's directive to provide vaccine only for these individuals."

The additional vaccine brings the County to nearly 50,000 adult doses, which is close to the 60,000 doses originally ordered, Dr. Wooten said. The County has received 75 percent of the child doses originally ordered. The remainder is expected this month.

Priority groups for receiving flu vaccine include: All children aged 6-23 months; adults 65 years of age and older; individuals age 2 - 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions; all women who will be pregnant during influenza season; residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities; children 6 months to 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy; healthcare workers involved with direct patient care and out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age.

For information on where to find a County Public Health Clinic, please call the County Flu Hotline, (866) 358-2966. For other clinics, please call the CHIP Flu Line, (877) FLU-0202, or visit the CHIP Web site, <a href="https://www.sdchip.org">www.sdchip.org</a>.

###